Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2016

High 0°C/Low -4°C A mix of sun and cloud

Health threats to watch for in 2017

metroLIFE

22-year-old gunman assassinates Russian ambassador in **Turkey**

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THE PROBLEM WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT

Vicky Mochama on the world crisis metroNEWS

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metro
Your essential daily news

Siberian tigers, also known as Amur tigers, are some of the largest cats in the world. They're also endangered with only an estimated 500 remaining in the wild due to habitat loss and poaching.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger, tiger, coming back

CONSERVATION

Siberian big cats to return to Toronto Zoo

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

It's official: the big cats are coming back to Toronto Zoo.

Once home to a number of Siberian tigers and their cubs, the zoo closed the exhibit in 2013 to make room for the giant pandas Er Shun and Da Mao.

However, with the pandas slated to move to Calgary in early 2018, zoo staff have confirmed that the Siberian tiger exhibit will be returning.

Maria Franke, the zoo's mammal curator, told Metro the zoo is in talks with other facilities to identify potential Siberian tigers to relocate to Toronto.

"I'm hoping there will be little transition time from when the pandas leave and when we have the tigers on exhibit for our guests," she said.

The exhibit may start with a single animal, but Franke said the "ultimate goal" is to acquire a breeding pair and contribute to conservation efforts.

The zoo was previously home to a breeding pair of Siberian tigers: male Tongua and his partner Tatiana. Tongua died in 2010 at the age of 17 following a surgery. Tatiana was euthanized in 2012, due to health problems associated with "old age," Franke said.

Franke said the tigers were always a popular exhibit with zoo guests, especially during the winter.

"They're cold-climate hardy, so they love our winters," she said. "They love to romp around in the snow."

2018'S SECRET

In addition to the Siberian tigers, another new exhibit will be unveiled at the zoo in 2018, but officials are staying mum except that it pertains to "a current species at the zoo."

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Hack housing woes

New York University has launched a pilot program that's matching students with seniors who have spare rooms in a bid to find budget-friendly housing. Metro has compiled a few 'housing hacks' from around the world to give you a glimmer of hope — or inspiration — for 2017.

MAY WARREN METRO

Laneway suites are one potential way to ease housing issues. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Shacking up with seniors

While it might put a damper on partying, the logic at NYU is student budgets are strained and retired people have space.

Students will pay about $5,000 a year, far less than they would for on-campus housing or pricey Manhattan apartments, according The Associated Press.

Better yet, most of the money goes to their senior hosts. The initiative will launch next fall with about 10 to 15 students.

Living in laneways

Vancouver developed a policy on laneway housing back in 2009, allowing for secondary suites to be built behind most detached homes.

The city — and many others since — recognized the untapped potential: small units that don't need a ton of room and come at an affordable price.

The suites aren't currently allowed under Toronto's zoning laws, but councillors Ana Bailao and Mary-Margaret McMahon are pushing for that to change.

Communal co-housing

Some people bristle at the term "commune" (too hippyish) but co-housing is a thing.

Berlin is one city where its booming with about 1,000 co-housing buildings in the city, according to Co-housing Berlin's website.

There are also 700 co-housing communities in Denmark, according to the New York Times.

Typically residents have their own private space but share common areas like kitchens, gardens and laundry rooms.

The arrangements also come with a set of principles about purposeful interdependent living.

Tiny homes for the homeless

As Toronto struggles with packed shelters and sub-zero temperatures, one community in Washington has found what might be a model solution for the homeless.

Quixote Village, located in an industrial park outside of Olympia, opened in 2013. People who used to be homeless are now living in "micro-houses" measuring about 144 square feet each.

The village is self-governed, with help from a non-profit board and was built with money from the local government, according to the New York Times.

Community Land Trusts

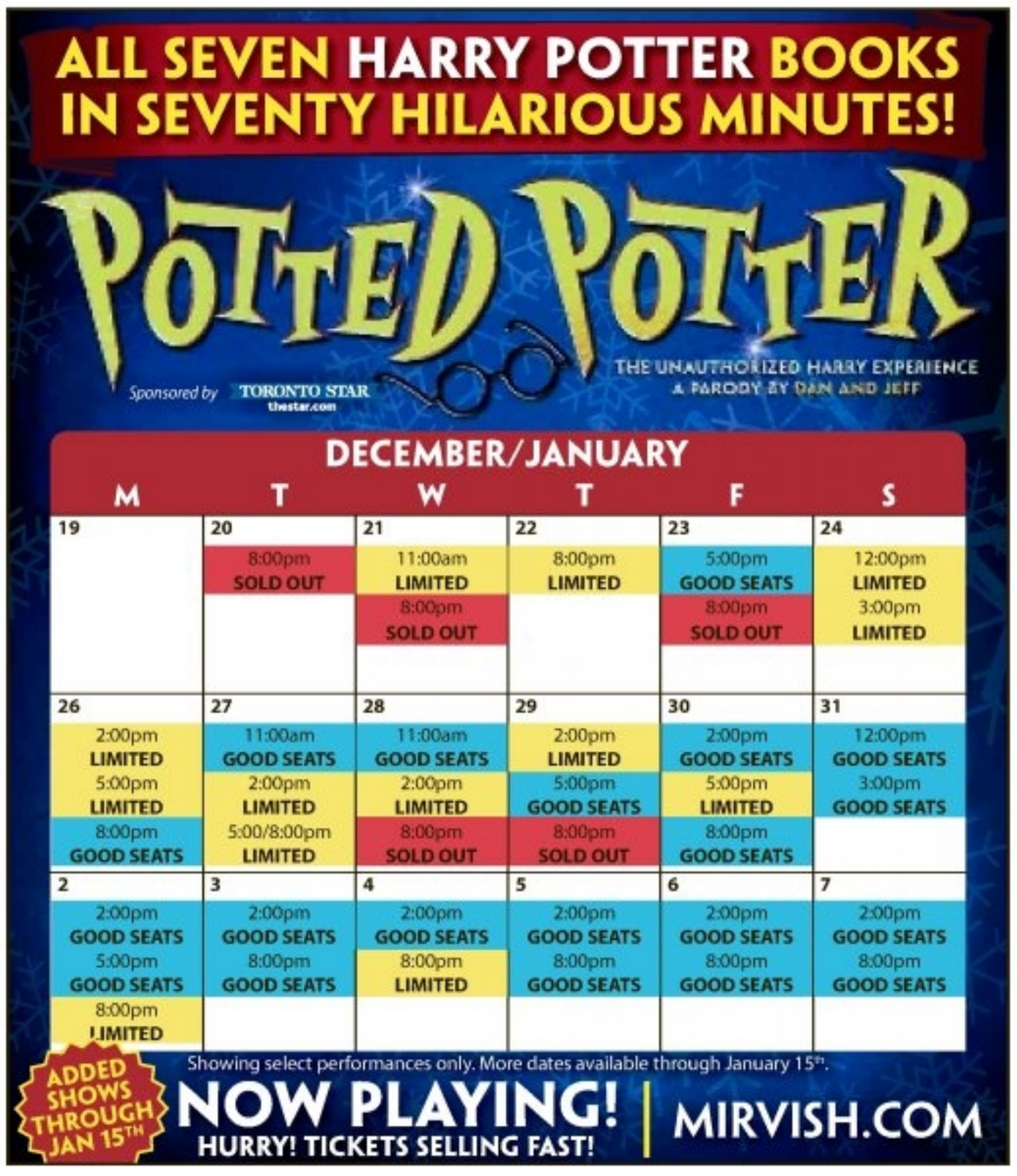
In the Bay Area around San Francisco, communities have responded to skyrocketing housing prices and rents through land trusts, according to the New York Times.

It works like this: local non-profits buy land and keep it in trust on behalf of the community.

Individual models vary but the goal is to provide permanent affordable housing for family after family.

Under some variations, the non-profit enters into a long-term renewable lease with tenants and the family gets only a portion of the increased property value when the home is sold.

There were about 250 such arrangements in the U.S. as of 2015, according to the National Community Land Trust Network.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Rapist sentenced to prison in absentia

CRIME

Moazzam Tariq fled to Pakistan while out on bail

Three weeks after a man convicted of sexual assault fled to Pakistan, he was sentenced in absentia to two years and nine months in prison.

Moazzam Tariq, 29, was convicted of raping a woman too intoxicated to consent, due in part to surveillance videos that show him plying the victim with alcohol as she became increasingly drunk, and taking her to a hotel room.

Tariq's interactions with the victim in the short time at the bar after they first met show an "ongoing disrespect for women and his desire to objectify them," Ontario Court Justice Mara Greene said Monday.

"Mr. Tariq knew how intoxicated the victim was and continued to give her more alcohol despite knowing how drunk she already was, therefore showing a disregard for her general safety," Greene said.

He was aware when leaving the bar, and at the hotel that the victim lacked the capacity to consent but continued to book a room, forged her name on the check-in form and sexually assaulted her.

"He took deliberate and planned steps to take advantage of the situation," Greene said.

There is a publication ban on the identity of the victim.

It is unusual to proceed with a sentencing without the offender, Greene said, but she found it was necessary in this case to allow the victim to move forward with her life.

Tariq was released on bail and permitted to remain on bail following his conviction. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Moazzam Tariq arrives at Old City Hall court in Toronto on Oct. 7. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PLAGIARISM

Chris Spence loses teaching licence

The Ontario College of Teachers has stripped Chris Spence of his teaching certification, marking the first time a licence has been revoked because of plagiarism.

The decision, delivered Monday by the college's disciplinary committee, came a month after the former director of education at the Toronto District School Board was found guilty of professional misconduct.

Spence was not present at the hearing. He was asked to immediately surrender his teaching certificate to the college's registrar.

A written reason for the decision will be made public at a later date.

Chris Spence TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The education community was rocked by the plagiarism scandal, which began with accusations that Spence had cribbed passages for an opinion piece he wrote for Torstar News Service in January 2013. Within months, it exploded into claims that he had used other people's work in his speeches, blogs, books and doctoral thesis. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

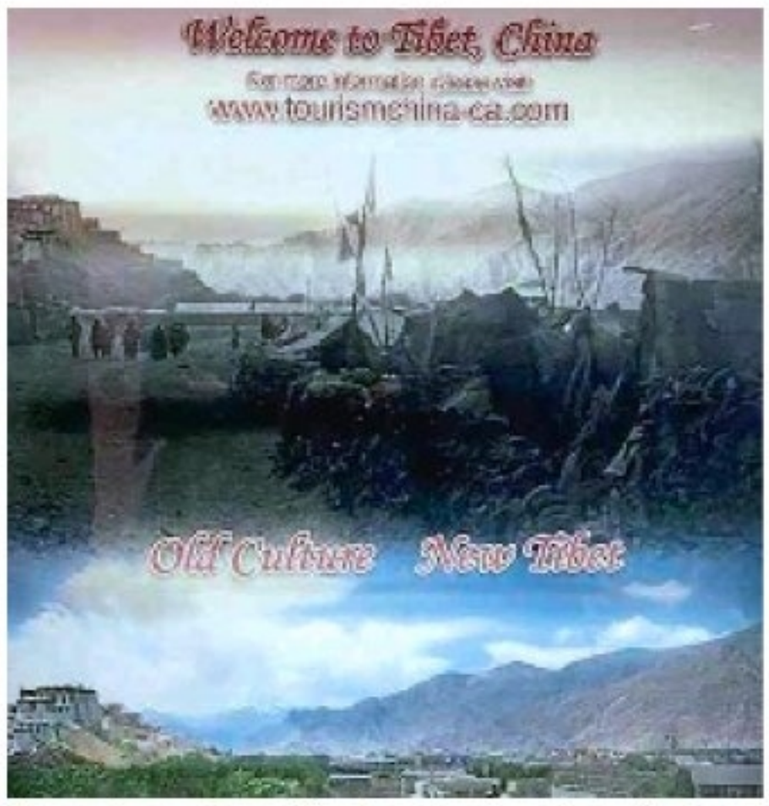
IN BRIEF

Ontario ministry falsified dates on FOI requests

Auditors are investigating five Ontario government ministries after staff at the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change altered dates on freedom of information requests to improve their compliance statistics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police test new way to catch impaired drivers

Toronto police have begun a pilot project testing the use of roadside screening devices for drug-impaired driving. The project, which continues until next spring, will test how well officers are able to use certain drug-testing devices on motorists. THE CANADIAN PRESS



These subway ads are offensive to some members of Toronto's Tibetan community. CONTRIBUTED

Tibetans' ad anger

RACIAL ISSUES

Activists say subway ads portray them as 'backwards'

Members of Toronto's Tibetan community are demanding an apology from the TTC after the agency refused to remove subway ads that critics say are racist propaganda sanctioned by the Chinese government.

"These ads basically portray Tibetans as backwards, as undeveloped and dirty," said Sonam Chokey, national director of Students for a Free Tibet Canada. "Basically they are trying to legitimize the colonization of Tibet."

The TTC says the agency had no choice but to run the ads because they're not in contravention of any law or of the transit agency's advertising policies.

The posters, which have been on the transit system since Nov. 28, depict two images of Tibet. One is colourless, and shows a clutch of ragged tents and faceless figures in a barren valley, while the other is in colour and shows a modern city in the same mountain setting. The accompanying caption is "Old Culture, New Tibet."

The posters direct readers to the internet address for the China National Tourist Office.

Chokey said that the China National Tourist Office is a state-sponsored agency and the ads are "blatantly racist." In addition to demanding that they be taken down immediately, Students for a Free Tibet is calling on the TTC to issue an "official apology," and supporters of the group are expected to speak and protest a meeting of the TTC board Tuesday afternoon.

Tibet has been under the control of the Chinese government since a 1950 army takeover that Tibetans refer to as an invasion. China claims it was an act of liberation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Toronto Fashion Week ready for a comeback

Toronto Fashion Week appears poised to return to the Canadian style calendar after a new ownership group said it has acquired the rights to the now-defunct event.

Freed Developments president Peter Freed announced Monday the purchase of the rights to Toronto Fashion Week from IMG Canada.

IMG Canada had operated Toronto Fashion Week in collaboration with IMG Fashion since 2012, before pulling the plug on the event in July.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RESEARCH

Experiences beat out gifts for bonding

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

If you're behind on your holiday shopping and out of ideas you might want to consider giving an "experience" instead of an object.

New research out of the University of Toronto suggests experiential gifts, like spa packages, concert tickets or museum passes, might really bring you closer to your friends and family than simply buying them more stuff.

The gifts "make recipients feel that their relationship has grown stronger," explained co-author Cindy Chan, an assistant professor of marketing with the department of management at the University of Toronto Scarborough and the Rotman School of Management.

So, while it might "it might not be as fun to give" because you don't get to see the person's face when they "experience" the gift, something like wine tasting instead of wine glasses or golf lessons instead of golf clubs pays off in the long run, Chan said.

> **Your mother might really enjoy a peaceful day at the spa.**
> Cindy Chan

And, she stressed, you don't need to share the experience with your loved one to make it count.

"Your mother might really enjoy a peaceful day at the spa, you don't have to be there for it, but she will feel connected to you as a result."

*Discount is taken off ticket price. Exclusions apply. See store for details.
**The percentage off is in relation to the price another retailer in Canada charges or would likely charge for the same or a comparable value item.

Canadian hostage, kids seen in video

AFGHANISTAN

Held since 2012, family describes 'Kafkaesque nightmare'

A video showing the two children of Canadian captive Joshua Boyle and his American wife Caitlan Coleman for the first time was posted online Monday as Coleman describes what they call a "Kafkaesque nightmare."

The family has been held by the Taliban-linked Haqqani Network since 2012 — both boys born in captivity. Coleman says the video was made Dec. 3 and as they ask for their freedom she says both her children "have seen their mother defiled."

"We understand both sides hate us," she says. "And are content to leave us and our two surviving children in these problems… We ask quickly that in our collective fourteenth year of

Caitlan Coleman and Joshua Boyle with their children. TWITTER

prison, urge the governments on both sides to reach some agreement to allow us freedom."

Boyle, 33, and Coleman, 31, were kidnapped near Kabul during a backpacking trip through Central Asia in October 2012. Coleman was five months pregnant at the time and gave birth to their son in custody. They had a second boy in 2015, after what Boyle told his parents was a "7 ½ month surreptitious pregnancy."

Boyle delivered his second son in the darkness by flashlight. "Ta-da!" he wrote in correspondence seen by Torstar News Service. "The astonished captors were good and brought all our post-partum needs, so he is now fat and healthy, praise God."

Boyle's writings, delivered through intermediaries and written in his tiny penmanship, provided a glimpse into his family's life in captivity.

"We are trying to keep spirits high for the children and play Beautiful Life," he wrote.

Boyle's parents believe this is a reference to the movie in which a father protects his son from the brutalities of a Nazi concentration camp by pretending it is just a game.

The writings also had references to the boys, along with Stompin' Tom Connors lyrics and Mother Teresa quotes, International Space Station and Rudyard Kipling and Thomas Merton poems. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HALIFAX

Shipping delay strands critters at the airport

Adina Bresge
For Metro | Halifax

A batch of live animals are recovering in their enclosures after a harrowing, four-day shipping delay at the Halifax airport, according to a pet store manager.

Terri-Ann Crisby said two chinchillas, two hamsters, two geckos and 40 fish were scheduled to be shipped on an overnight flight from Montreal to Gander on Wednesday, but the order was held up during a connection in Halifax enroute to northeastern Newfoundland.

By the time the animals arrived Sunday morning, Crisby said all but 32 fish survived the journey to Pet Central in Gander, N.L., after being stranded for days due to bad weather.

Crisby said she drove to the airport eight times between Thursday and Sunday, but each time she arrived, she was told her shipment had been bumped.

She called Air Canada to stress that live animals need to be handled differently than baggage.

"I even asked them if they could just open their containers and give them some water and food," said Crisby. "They said because of liability reasons they couldn't."

B.C. funeral homes asked to distribute naloxone

As opioid overdoses spike in B.C., the B.C. Funeral Association is recommending members carry naloxone, a drug that can be used to reverse the effects of overdoses, because of the increased likelihood a mortician or other staff will come into contact with lethal opioids like fentanyl.

The number of overdose deaths related to illicit drugs leapt to 755 by the end of November, a more than 70 per cent jump over the number of fatalities recorded during the same time period last year. The B.C. Coroners Service says fentanyl was detected in 374 of the cases, or about 60 per cent of deaths.

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A man identified as Mevlut Mert Altintas killed Andrei Karlov, the Russian Ambassador to Turkey, shouting: 'Don't forget Aleppo! Don't forget Syria!' AP & GETTY IMAGES

We need to talk about the real tragedy

The man who killed the Russian ambassador was born in 1994, the year of the Rwandan Genocide, and was 16 when the Syrian civil war started; a child became a man in monstrous times

Vicky Mochama
Metro | Toronto

Angry young men with weapons — trucks, guns, bombs, the Internet — exist everywhere; they have the ability to upend fragile peaces and spark destructive wars. An apparent terror attack in Berlin, and the assassination of the Russian ambassador to Turkey yesterday are being compared with the initiating acts of World War I.

I don't know if the comparison is fair, but I am concerned that these tragedies will exacerbate the global refugee crisis. According to the U.N. Refugee Agency, there are 65.3 million displaced persons, the largest movement of people since the end of World War I. Nearly a third of the refugee population comes from Syria (4.9 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million) and Somalia (1.1 million).

In fear, they have crossed continents by foot, on trucks, over water and by plane. In danger, they have negotiated with criminal traffickers, marine patrols and refugee camp staff. In hope, they have sent children ahead alone, sold everything to get to anywhere else and prayed for salvation. Too many have received none.

The Syrian crisis hasn't exposed the limits of our humanitarian claims. Dadaab refugee camp's twenty-five years of existence already showed our hand. What appears to be a looming genocide in South Sudan has been met with relative silence. Northern Nigeria remains besieged by Boko Haram. The Syrian crisis has solidified those limits.

Security guards a Christmas market in Berlin. GETTY IMAGES

It has been over a year since the body of Alan Kurdi made front pages across the world. He wasn't the last child to escape the world's wilful ignorance.

I couldn't help but be struck by the age of the man who killed the Russian ambassador. He was born in 1994, the year of the Rwandan Genocide, and was 16 when the Syrian civil war started; a child became a man in monstrous times. For him and so many, the global community's "never again" continues to mean "again and again."

Nonetheless, it is a heinous murder that, with its echoes from a century ago, is inexcusable. The true tragedy is that this horrific act further endangers the very people it claims to be defending. More than half of Syrian refugees have fled to Turkey where they live in a fraught atmosphere. In the last few months, Turkey has experienced a series of terror attacks and a failed coup.

There is no evidence that the gunman was a refugee. That will hardly matter. The example of Kenya and its Somali population shows that refugees easily become political footballs to be tossed around with calculated cruelty.

In Canada, our connection to the plight of the Kurdi family spurred a national response. Whether as duty or as penance, we took in 25,000 Syrians. That is a drop in the bucket. This effort pales in comparison to the scale of the crisis. "Refugees Welcome" should be more than a slogan, it should become our way of life.

LATEST NEWS

TURKEY

Invoking Syria, gunman kills Russian ambassador

A Turkish policeman fatally shot Russia's ambassador to Turkey on Monday in front of a shocked gathering at a photo exhibit and then, pacing near the body of his victim, appeared to condemn Russia's military role in Syria, shouting: "Don't forget Aleppo! Don't forget Syria!"

People at the art gallery watched in horror as the gunman, who was wearing a dark suit and tie, fired at least eight shots, at one point walking around Ambassador Andrei Karlov as he lay motionless and shooting him again at close range.

The assailant, who was identified as Mevlut Mert Altintas, a 22-year-old member of Ankara's riot police squad, was later killed in a shootout with police. Three other people were wounded in the attack, authorities said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN

Truck rams Berlin Christmas market, killing at least 12

A truck rammed into a crowded Christmas market in central Berlin on Monday evening, killing at least 12 people and injuring around 50 as it tore through tables and wooden stands. Police said a suspect believed to be the driver was arrested nearby and a passenger died as paramedics were treating him.

The popular Christmas market was filled with a mix of tourists and locals when the large truck hurtled into it. Germany's top security official said initial evidence pointed to an intentional act, and the White House condemned "what appears to have been a terrorist attack."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Obama grants record pardons to 78 people in last-minute clemency push

President Barack Obama has pardoned 78 people and shortened the sentence of 153 others convicted of federal crimes, the greatest number of individual clemencies in a single day by any president, the White House said Monday.

Obama has been granting commutations at rapid-fire pace in his final months in office, but he has focused primarily on shortening sentences of those convicted of drug offences rather than giving pardons.

Neil Eggleston, Obama's White House counsel, said Obama has now pardoned a total of 148 people during his presidency. He has also shortened the sentences of 1,176 people, including 395 serving life sentences.

Eggleston said each clemency recipient's story is unique, but a common thread of rehabilitation underlies all of them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama pardoned 78 people and shortened sentences for 153 others. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SWITZERLAND

Gunman attacks Zurich mosque

A gunman dressed in black stormed into the prayer hall of a mosque frequented by Somali immigrants and opened fire, wounding three people before fleeing, a Zurich police spokesman said Monday.

Police, who rushed to the scene in a central neighbourhood known for trendy cafes and the city's red-light district, were also investigating a possible connection to the discovery of a corpse at nearby Gessner bridge over the Sihl River, police spokesman Marco Bisa said.

Authorities weren't considering the attack as terrorism. Police also said it was too early to determine whether there might be any link to an incident in Berlin also on Monday, where a truck rammed into a Christmas market.

"The unknown person fired several shots and fled from the building," Bisa said. "The shooting took place inside a prayer room with several people in it. Two victims were severely injured."

Bisa but did not specify the nationalities of the people injured.

At the scene, Abukav Abshirow, a 30-year-old Somali man who works at a Zurich car dealership, said his friend was among the injured. He recalled how they had been celebrating a religious occasion at the centre the night before.

"I am under shock," he said. "We've had great times here. The atmosphere was always friendly and happy at the centre."

Attacks by gunmen are rare in Switzerland. The country was shaken in 2013 by at least two multiple-fatality shootings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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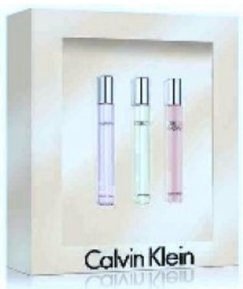

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TORONTO

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Join the discussion about Toronto's 2017 Budget

The preliminary 2017 tax supported budgets are being considered by the Budget Committee for recommendation to the Executive Committee and City Council.

Review the preliminary 2017 Budget at: **toronto.ca/council** or **toronto.ca/budget2017**.

To participate in the 2017 Budget discussion:

1. Make a public presentation at one of the Budget Subcommittee meetings on January 5, 9 or 10, 2017.

Register by email to buc@toronto.ca or call 416-392-4666 before 12 noon on Wednesday, January 4. Indicate your choice of location, date and session number. Individuals may make only one presentation at any one of the consultation sessions.

Etobicoke Civic Centre
Council Chamber
399 The West Mall
January 5
3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

East York Civic Centre
Council Chamber
850 Coxwell Ave.
January 9
3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Scarborough Civic Centre
Council Chamber
150 Borough Dr.
January 5
3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

York Civic Centre
Council Chamber
2700 Eglinton Ave. W.
January 10
3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

North York Civic Centre
Council Chamber
5100 Yonge St.
January 9
3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

City Hall
Committee Room 1
100 Queen St. W.
January 10
9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

2. Send your written comments to the Budget Committee.

Email: buc@toronto.ca, Fax: 416-392-1879, or Mail: Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., 10 West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2. Attention: Budget Committee.

3. Send a letter or email to your local City Councillor.

For contact information, please call 311, TTY: 416-338-0TTY (0889), email 311@toronto.ca or visit toronto.ca.

Notice: If you write or make a presentation to the Budget Committee, the City will collect and use your personal information in accordance with applicable laws. We also videotape meetings and make recordings publicly available on request. More information about the collection and use of your personal information is available at: http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/privacy.htm.

Provinces spurn Ottawa's offer

NEGOTIATIONS

Pledge of $11B fails to bridge health-care funding gap

Provincial health ministers wait to speak as a group before a meeting with the federal finance and health ministers in Ottawa on Monday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal government pulled billions of dollars off the negotiating table Monday after failing to reach a long-term health-care funding agreement with the provinces and territories.

Ottawa sweetened its offer at midday in the face of withering criticism from provincial health and finance ministers, but it wasn't enough to bridge the gap between the two sides.

"We were working today to have partners with the provinces and territories," Finance Minister Bill Morneau told a news conference. "We were unsuccessful in that effort."

Morneau and federal Health Minister Jane Philpott had offered $11 billion over 10 years for home care and mental health, on top of a 3.5 per cent annual increase in health transfers to the province.

That offer now appears to be off the table, reverting back to $8 billion over 10 years, with an annual transfer payment increase that's poised to drop next April to three per cent a year — half the six per cent it has been since 2004.

"We were disappointed that the provinces and territories did not feel that they could accept this offer," Philpott said.

The talks appeared doomed from the start, with the provinces accusing the Trudeau government of refusing to negotiate a new federal health-care funding framework, instead putting forward what they considered a lacklustre take-it-or-leave-it offer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, December 20, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON TRUDEAU AS PARLIAMENTARIAN

Question period has never been a prime venue for intellectual honesty, and Trudeau is not reinventing the genre.

Notwithstanding a spotty attendance record, Justin Trudeau spoke no less than 513 times in the House of Commons — mostly as part of question period — since the 42nd Parliament opened late in 2015.

Over the past year, the prime minister delivered more bromides than policy statements. The day Trudeau rose in the House to declare his intention to set a national floor price on carbon was a notable exception.

But the climate change issue — even as it has been top of mind for the Liberal government since it took power — was not one of the topics most raised with the prime minister in the House this year.

Pride of place in the list of questions put to Trudeau goes instead to political financing and the Liberal practice of offering private face time with the prime minister or one of his ministers in exchange for donations to the party.

Trudeau was asked more than 100 questions related to his and his cabinet's participation in cash-for-access events, and the potential conflicts-of-interest that could arise from the practice.

He dismissed most of those questions with a blanket assurance that all rules were being followed. The record shows that on at least 25 occasions, Trudeau repeated the same answer almost word for word.

Trudeau is hardly the first PM to resort to obfuscation and evasion. That may be why his stonewalling has so far not exacted much of a cost.

In so doing, the prime minister mostly demonstrated the limited virtues of repetition.

At year's end, there remains a glaring disconnect between his contention that the fuss over cash-for-access is unwarranted and the guidelines that state "there should be no preferential access to government, or appearance of preferential access, accorded to individuals or organizations because they have made financial contributions to politicians and political parties."

COMMONS MAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during question period on Parliament hill on Dec. 7.
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Electoral reform was the other issue that dogged Trudeau in the House over the past year. He was on the receiving end of more than 40 questions about his promise to introduce a different voting system in time for the next election. Over the year, his intentions became harder rather than easier to pin down.

When a special parliamentary committee was tasked with exploring the issue in June, the focus of the prime minister's interventions in the House was on the mandate he claimed he had to change the way Canadians elect their government.

"Sixty per cent of Canadians voted in favour of parties that promised to change the current voting system. Canadians clearly indicated that they wanted the most recent election to be the last one conducted under the existing system," Trudeau told the House just before it adjourned for the summer.

But by December, he did not sound as certain or as enamoured of his mandate. "The fact is there are many, many different perspectives across this country on electoral reform," the prime minister told the MPs who wanted to know how he would follow up on the special committee report.

Question period has never been a prime venue for intellectual honesty, and Trudeau is not reinventing the genre. He is hardly the first prime minister to resort to obfuscation and evasion to talk his way out of unwanted opposition questions. That may be why his stonewalling has so far not exacted much of a political cost.

For all the travel Trudeau does at home and abroad, Canadians would, in theory, be more likely to catch a glimpse of the prime minister in action in the Commons where he appears more regularly than anywhere else.

In practice though, that is not the case.

In its annual tally of Canada's news coverage the Montreal firm Influence Communication found that with the exception of the federal budget, the most reported-on Canadian political events of the past year took place off the Hill.

In its year-end review of 2016 Canadian politics, CTV listed just one story — the adoption of Canada's right-to-die legislation — in which Parliament truly took centre stage.

An Abacus poll published this weekend reported that one third of Canadians had not heard of the fundraising controversy the opposition and the media have so consistently hammered Trudeau about over the past few months.

Almost half said they had not heard of the ongoing online consultation on electoral reform — and that's after the government sent a card about it to every household.

By any measure, much of what happens on Parliament ends up staying on Parliament Hill. That is not just because there are fewer journalists to cover what goes on there. But more on that in a future column.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer.

All I want for Christmas is a Toronto sales tax

TORY'S TORONTO
Matt Elliott

Toronto City Council was full of surprises last week.

Not only did the final council meeting of 2016 see councillors vote to move forward with Mayor John Tory's plan for highway tolls — something unthinkable just a year ago — they also took their first steps toward the creation of a municipal sales tax.

It's almost like our perennially immature city is finally ready to grow up.

The sales tax decision is especially notable. Off a motion by Coun. Josh Matlow, councillors voted 30-12 to ask the provincial government for a city share of the HST. If that doesn't work — and it probably won't — they also voted 22-20 to explore the creation of a new sales tax for Toronto, potentially in coordination with other GTA municipalities.

This is huge. There's a strong case for implementing a city or regional sales tax. Unlike highway tolls, a sales tax could be implemented relatively quickly. While it would require provincial approval, it wouldn't require any new equipment, and the ongoing cost of collection is much lower.

I don't mean to dump on road tolls. I'm not changing my tune — I still think they're worth pursuing, and they might end up as the only feasible option.

But let's not sleep on the transformative power of a sales tax. There's a reason most large cities worldwide collect one — including all of the 10 largest cities in the United States.

Obviously, the revenue potential is enormous. A recent study by the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance pegged the value of a one per cent tax at more than a half-billion a year.

That will buy you a lot of infrastructure.

But for me, the desirability of a sales tax is less about cash and more about the way it could better direct the city's political priorities.

Whether they know it or not, politicians are greatly influenced by the kind of taxes they collect. In Toronto — where property taxes and the land transfer tax rule the roost — this leads to an overwhelming political focus on home ownership and real estate.

A sales tax flips that around. Politicians would have a financial reason to care about things that generate consumer spending. The economic activity spurred by events like TIFF and Pride would directly contribute to building transit and housing.

But alas, in a move we've seen all too often, the provincial government was too quick to close the door on Toronto's openness for a sales tax. "It's not something that, at this point, I'm willing to entertain," said Finance Minister Charles Sousa after council's vote.

That's too bad, and I'm asking Queen's Park to reconsider. It is, after all, a season for giving. Why not give Toronto the power it needs to be better?

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Girl group Fifth Harmony have become four: Camila Cabello leaves to pursue solo career

Top health issues of 2017

Dr. Gregory Taylor sees lifestyle diseases, antimicrobial resistance and healthier cities as key issues facing his successor as the nation's top medic. ISTOCK;AP;RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INSIGHT

Canada's outgoing chief doctor talks future threats

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

During his tenure as Canada's official top doctor, Gregory Taylor spent much of his time responding to two viruses that weren't on our radar a few years ago: Ebola and Zika.

"The list of what I didn't get to is very long," said Taylor, who left the post last week.

In between global health crises, he issued reports to parliament on alcohol abuse and family violence and worked on educating the public about how closely health and lifestyle are connected. He even calls the health-care system the "disease care system."

In a wide-ranging conversation with Metro, Taylor outlined the health issues he thinks will dominate the years to come. And he has some ideas for how the next Chief Public Health Officer should face them.

On lifestyle diseases

There's a very long list of things we need to be focusing on. But the top one for me is lifestyle diseases. These problems are wickedly complicated. And the solutions to these problems are outside the health sector. By lifestyle, I mean obesity, physical activity, poor nutrition. One of the indicators of that is diabetes. Our rates in the last few years have virtually doubled. We're not really getting ahead at all on obesity. It's a reflection of a developed society where we eat ourselves sick.

On healthy cities

We've known for many, many years that the built environment has a huge effect on health. Some cities are very hot and it's hard on some people. The walkability of cities and the availability of rapid transit are extremely important. I work with the age-friendly cities initiative at the World Health Organization. And age-friendly cities are healthy for everyone because they're easy to get around in.

On superbugs

Antimicrobial resistance is a big issue that we're trying to face. Organisms naturally evolve and become resistant to antibiotics. We've been OK up to now because there've been new ones that have been invented. Well, we've been overusing antibiotics in humans and animals and the rate at which they become resistant has increased. The drug companies aren't producing new antibiotics. This is a real, global crisis, and if we don't address this we're going to go back to the pre-antibiotic era — infections can kill you, and we won't be able to do minor surgical procedures.

> **It's a reflection of a society where we eat ourselves sick.**
> Dr Gregory Taylor, on diabetes rates

On the direction of research

We need research to make sure we're implementing the knowledge and science we already have. It took us 40 years to get tobacco rates down. And we knew for a long, long time how dangerous tobacco was. We focus a lot on educating people. And that's great. But it's not sufficient to do behaviour change. Vaccination hesitancy is a really good example. We have safe, effective, cheap interventions that prevent disease. Yet we have significant numbers of Canadians who don't trust that. So how do we convince those to trust us? That's some of the implementation research we need.

On what Canada's next top doctor will face

What keeps me up at night, and what I assume will keep the next person up at night, is that we really don't know what those unforeseen things are. Nobody could have predicted Ebola. What's next? We're not sure. It's most likely, because of climate change and factors like that, that it's going to be a vector-borne disease (a disease, like malaria, that is spread from person to person by a vector such as mosquitoes). What keeps me up at night is making sure we have the right staff and the right competencies so that we're prepared no matter what.

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Mommy brain is real

PREGNANCY

Memory stays intact, but MRI data signals definite change

Results of the study hint that such upgrades may prepare a woman for motherhood. ISTOCK

Pregnancy affects not only a woman's body: It changes parts of her brain too, a new study says.

When researchers compared brain scans of women before and after pregnancy, they spotted some differences in 11 locations. They also found hints that the alterations help women prepare for motherhood. For example, they might help a mother understand the needs of her infant, Elseline Hoekzema, a study author, explained.

Hoekzema is a neuroscientist at Leiden University in the Netherlands who began working on the study while at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in Spain. She and colleagues present the results in a paper released by the journal Nature Neuroscience.

It includes data on 25 Spanish women scanned before and after their first pregnancies, along with 20 women who didn't get pregnant during the study. The brain changes in the pregnancy group emerged from comparisons of those two groups.

And the changes, first documented an average of 10 weeks after giving birth, were mostly still present two years later. Studies showed they're a motherhood thing: No brain changes were seen in first-time fathers.

The women showed no declines on tests of memory. Based on prior research findings, the researchers think the brain changes happened during pregnancy rather than after childbirth.

What's going on? Hoekzema and colleagues think the differences result from sex hormones that flood the brain of a pregnant woman. In the 11 places, the MRI data indicate reductions in volume of the brain's grey matter, but it's not clear what that means. It could reflect loss of brain cells or a pruning of the places where brain cells communicate, called synapses.

Losing some synapses is not necessarily a bad thing. It happens during adolescence, producing more specialized and efficient brain circuits. Researchers suspect that could be happening in the pregnant women.

The affected brain areas overlapped with circuitry that's involved in figuring out what another person is thinking and feeling. That's a handy ability for a mother tending to an infant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Natalie Bobier-Gariépy named her baby Liam, which is Canada's top boy name for 2016. CONTRIBUTED

BABY NAMES

Olivia still the apple of Ontario's eyes

For the fifth year in a row, Olivia is the most popular baby name in Ontario.

The annual list from the provincial government also shows Charlotte and Henry leaping ahead on the annual list widely read by parents.

Officials said Charlotte has proven 105 times more popular in the last year while Henry is 83 times more popular.

Rounding out the top 10 names are Emma, Liam, Benjamin, Noah, Lucas, Ethan, Charlotte, William and Ava.

Parents have a year after naming a child to register the birth on the Service Ontario website to get a birth certificate, social insurance number and qualify for child benefits.

BIG IN THE 6IX

Toronto's hottest names

Thinking of naming your little one Ethan or Emma? Just know they won't be the only ones in the class in five years. The two names topped Toronto's list of most popular baby names for 2016. Check out the full list below:

Girls: (1) Emma, **(2)** Olivia, **(3)** Sophia, **(4)** Isabella, **(5)** Maya.

Boys: (1) Ethan, **(2)** Lucas, **(3)** Noah, **(4)** Gabriel, **(5)** Nathan.

New names on the list this year were Tenley, Riaan and Eason. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Can dogs fly? Of course, as long as owners prep well and pooch behaves

Carli Stephens-Rothman
For Torstar News Service

When I arrive at the airport, I have a smile on my face and two brand-name bags strapped to my body. Over my left arm, I've got my new Lug bag, which is both terribly cute and mysteriously convenient. Over my right arm, I'm toting a less stylish, far more cumbersome Sherpa bag. The Lug contains everything I need for a five-day vacation and it's overhead compatible. It's literally a miracle bag. The Sherpa contains only my dog. It's figuratively an anvil.

About five years ago, I decided to stop passing up opportunities to travel simply because I couldn't find a pet sitter. I figured — since she's essentially a loaf of bread with legs, therefore small enough to join me in the cabin — why not? At this point, I don't think twice before including my pet as a fellow passenger.

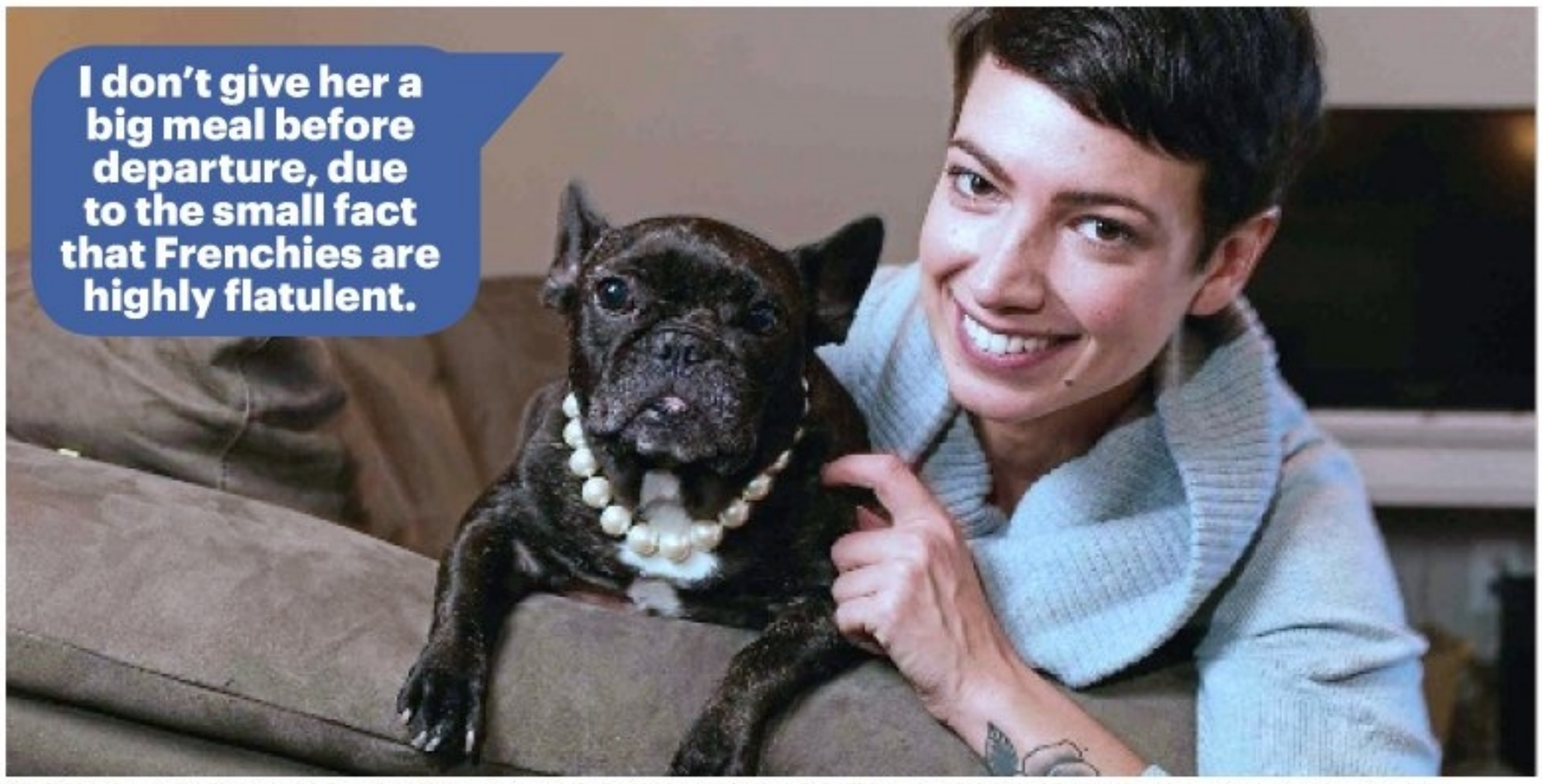
Last month, flying back to Victoria from Edmonton, a woman came to gush over Fig, my dog, who was peeking out of the carrier as I purchased a pre-flight coffee. "A PUGGG," she squealed in the direction of the Sherpa. I've learned to practise acceptance around people who mistake my Frenchie for other flat-faced breeds. After all, as far as I'm concerned, all cats and all babies look exactly the same.

"She's a French bulldog," I correct her politely.

"Does she fly often? Is she quiet on the plane? Does it scare her to be in the air? What if she has to pee? What do the other passengers think?"

I forget sometimes that flying with a pet is an experience not many people have had.

Yes, she flies often — three or four times a year and once I win Lotto 6/49, she'll be sky-bound weekly! Most major hotels keep pet-friendly suites at no extra cost.



Carli Stephens-Rothman with her dog Fig, a seven and a half year old French bulldog, complete with pearls. KEN FAUGHT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fig is generally a quiet dog, but even more so when we're in flight. Our vet told us that the vibrations of the plane are actually quite soothing, as it reminds dogs of lying up against their mother. So, cruising altitude for me is snoozing altitude for her. As for best potty practices, it's recommended to limit a dog's water intake for three hours pre-flight. In Fig's case, I don't give her a big meal before departure, due to the small fact that Frenchies are highly flatulent. Let's just say I've skipped many an in-flight movie to watch the drama unfold — a woman nudging her husband accusingly over a fart he didn't commit; his expression of innocence and confusion.

Truth be told, the most challenging part of flying with pets are the people on planes without pets. Not everyone is happy to have an animal on board. I've had people ask to switch seats to be farther from us and once I had someone ask me if I couldn't just "catch the next one," because "dog-smell" upsets her, as if air travel was like public transit and another flight to Winnipeg would be along in five minutes. In those cases, I just keep my head down and try not to comment on the fact that their smell, a bouquet of duty free perfume, is incinerating my sinuses.

$60

Most major airlines flying within Canada accommodate pets, assuming they're under about 10 kilograms, for about $60 round trip.

"But what about legitimate pet allergies," you may wonder. Tough Milk-bones, I guess. Most airlines will help allergy-ridden travellers by switching their seats to be further from the sneeze-inducing creature, but aside from that, allergy sufferers are not left with many options. Air Canada, for example, only allows one pet per flight, but many flights have just that.

If I want to have the privilege of flight with my fur-babe, I have to be respectful. That means answering questions amiably and handling the more fragrant naysayers with grace. It also means following the rules at all times; not taking her out of her bag in the cabin, only walking her on the leash in airports that permit it, having all health-related documents ready in advance and returning to the luggage trolley to collect my bags only after I've taken her outside to relieve herself.

Overall, though the pet carrier's heavy, I feel much lighter knowing my dog's by my side. Travelling with Fig comes down to just this: Passport? Check. Boarding pass? Yep. House keys? Probably not, but I'll figure that out when I get back. Snorting, scratching, farting four-legged beast? It wouldn't be a vacation without one.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Savouring a return trip to wonderland

The SNL cast of 1975 get festive. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: Saturday Night Live Christmas Special THE MOMENT: Winter Wonderland

Toward the end of this compilation of skits from SNL's 50-odd Christmas shows, this gem rose up from the very first season.

Dec. 20, 1975. Candice Bergen is hosting. Garrett Morris, in a red sweater and green-and-white striped scarf, begins singing Winter Wonderland into a hand mike. He sings really well. Backing him is the long-haired, bearded SNL house band, dressed as scruffy angels.

After a few bars, Bergen, Gilda Radner, Laraine Newman and Jane Curtin dash onstage and join in around one standing mike. They're wearing red caps, red T-shirts that read "Merry Christmas," and grey sweatpants tucked into very '70s boots. A few bars later, Chevy Chase, Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi stroll in wearing pea coats and scarves; they add a basso doo-wop. As the song builds to its final verse, low-rent snow begins to fall.

This number was a time machine for me — suddenly I was 13 years old, watching it for the first time on the red Panasonic in my childhood bedroom, in love with the cast and itching for New York. Its no-budget shabbiness was part of the glamour; its thrown-together feel radiated joy.

Everyone looks impossibly young, especially Radner and Belushi, whom we lost too soon. But I didn't feel nostalgia. I was there: in the ache of Christmas, yearning for a big life. It's not that I don't remember who I was or what things were like then. It's the opposite. I still feel like that person. It's the years in between that blur.

SNL returns Jan. 14 to NBC and Global.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

metro SPORTS
Hundreds of Wellington cyclists turned out Tuesday to ride with Lance
Armstrong, who is in New Zealand to film a TV ad

Ex-Leafs netminder not bitter over 'business' move

NHL

Bernier has landed with Ducks as backup goalie

Jonathan Bernier said he never saw it coming. Frederik Andersen, on the other hand, did.

Bernier is the backup goalie for the Anaheim Ducks, Andersen the No. 1 goalie for the Maple Leafs, thanks to a pair of trades that may or may not have been interconnected as the two teams did the most modern of NHL dances: the goaltending salary-cap shuffle.

"I was surprised (at the trade) because I felt like I showed a lot of character the way I finished last season," Bernier said. "I played every game like it was my last game. I thought I finished strong last season, and proved that I can overcome situations.

"But they went the other way, and got Freddie. I thought I was still in the picture after, then I got the call."

The Ducks were in a unique situation with two young promising goalies. They had John Gibson with a team-friendly contract, a $2.3-million cap hit for three years. And they had Andersen, whose deal was about to expire. With expansion looming, only one of those goalies was going to be protected. Better to trade one for something, than lose him a year later for nothing.

Ducks goaltender Jonathan Bernier makes a save on the Sharks' Chris Tierney on Oct. 5 in San Jose. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

"I could see the way things were going there might have to be a change," Andersen said. "With the expansion draft coming, they had to get something back for one of us. I've been fortunate to come to this team. I'm happy with the way it worked out."

The Maple Leafs, meanwhile, had lost faith in Bernier and had traded James Reimer. They acquired Andersen in late June for a first-round pick (30th overall) last summer, and a 2017 second-round pick. The Leafs then gave Andersen a five-year, $25-million extension.

On July 8, a week after the Leafs paid Bernier's $2-million signing bonus, they sent Bernier and his $4.15-million cap hit to the Ducks for a conditional pick in 2017.

Bernier didn't sound bitter about his time in Toronto, where he had gone from the goalie of the future to a goat.

"I have some amazing memories," Bernier said. "I love this city, the fans, the organization. You can see they're doing the right thing with their team. I've been watching a few of their games.

"But I'm happy where I am in Anaheim. We have a good shot to go deep in the playoffs. That's my main goal, to get a shot at a Stanley Cup."

Bernier had a terrible start to the 2014-15 campaign, getting sent to the minors at one point, with coach Mike Babcock seeming particularly hard on him.

"That's the business," Bernier said. "You've got to win. I don't have a bad feeling. I enjoyed my time here."

He seemed to find his game in the latter part of the season, even when the Leafs were going with youth.

"It wasn't easy the last two years," he said. "I can see now why they went through that pain. Obviously it paid off. I can tell right now they're heading in the right direction."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DUCKS WIN

Cam Fowler's power-play goal broke a tie 13 minutes into the third period and stood as the game-winner in the Ducks' 3-2 victory over the Maple Leafs on Monday night at Air Canada Centre.

- Auston Matthews and Nazem Kadri were the goal scorers for Toronto. Frederik Andersen made 25 saves.
- Ryan Getzlaf and Nick Ritchie also scored for Anaheim. John Gibson made 33 saves for the win.

POLITICS

Panthers owner tabbed for defence

Vincent Viola has insisted for the past three years that his sole focus as owner of the Florida Panthers was to win the franchise's first Stanley Cup.

He'll be otherwise occupied now.

Viola's nomination by President-elect Donald Trump on Monday to be the next secretary of the Army means he will be giving up his roles as chairman and governor of the Panthers, pending his confirmation by the Senate.

But the Panthers said the move will not change the day-to-day hockey operations.

Vincent Viola GETTY IMAGES

"Zero effect on us," Panthers president and CEO Matthew Caldwell said. "His ownership still stays with his family. There'll be no changes in positions, and nothing for the front office or management team."

Viola, a 1977 West Point graduate who bought the Panthers in 2013, plans to have the chairman and governor positions filled by his longtime business partner Doug Cifu.

The NHL offered Viola congratulations.

"The club has assured us that the day-to-day operations of the Panthers' franchise will not be affected by this development, and we will certainly work closely with the club to ensure that is the case," the NHL said in a statement.

"Mr. Viola and team ownership have further advised that they remain completely committed to South Florida and to the Panthers' fans."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

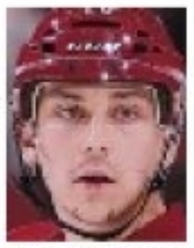
WORLD JUNIORS

Strome to wear C for Team Canada

Dylan Strome was named captain of Canada's team for the world junior hockey championship with Mathew Barzal and Thomas Chabot as alternate captains, Hockey Canada announced Monday.

All three are back from last year's world juniors, where Canada was eliminated in the quarter-finals by host Finland.

The choices were no surprise. Strome, an Erie Otter forward who started the season with the Arizona Coyotes, Barzal, a New York Islanders first-round pick and a Seattle Thunderbirds forward, and Chabot, an Ottawa Senators prospect defenceman from the Saint John Sea Dogs, are expected to be key players when the tournament opens Jan. 26 in Toronto and Montreal.


Dylan Strome GETTY IMAGES

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA IN BRIEF

DeRozan named East's player of the week

Toronto's DeMar DeRozan has earned Eastern Conference player of the week honours for the second time this season.

DeRozan led the NBA last week averaging 31.5 points on 60.5 per cent shooting in four games. He also averaged 4.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists last week.

DeRozan led the Raptors in all four games, scoring at least 30 points as the team posted a 3-1 record.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CYCLING

British doping hearing gets testy

British cycling is shrouded in a cloud that "relates to doping," a legislator said Monday, prompting a defiant defence of its integrity by the architects of the country's successful Olympic and Tour de France programs.

Most of the questioning of Team Sky and British Cycling leaders during testy exchanges at British parliamentary doping hearings related to a medical package sent to star rider Bradley Wiggins five years ago.

Team Sky head Dave Brailsford ended two months of mystery surrounding the package — that was hand delivered from England to the 2011 Dauphine Libere race in France by British Cycling employee Simon Cope — by disclosing that it was a legal decongestant.

But Brailsford could not say whether there was written evidence that Fluimucil was in the package that is being investigated by Britain's anti-doping agency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vinnie has proved throughout his life that he knows how to be a leader and deliver major results in the face of any challenge.
Donald Trump

IN BRIEF

Italy to consider Balotelli

Italy coach Gian Piero Ventura will talk to Mario Balotelli about joining the team before its next set of matches in March.

Balotelli has revived his career in France, but has not played for Italy since the 2014 World Cup.

"His technical qualities are not up for discussion," Ventura said. "But for every player, not just Balotelli, what counts is the ability to be part of a group."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA fines poppy displays

Four British soccer federations were fined Monday by FIFA for displaying poppies at World Cup qualifying matches in November.

England's federation must pay 45,000 Swiss francs ($43,800 US) for the "display of a political symbol" at a home match against Scotland on Nov. 11. Scotland was fined 20,000 Swiss francs ($19,500) and Wales and Northern Ireland were fined 20,000 Swiss francs ($19,500) and 15,000 Swiss francs ($14,600).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reds tops on Merseyside

PREMIER LEAGUE

Mane's winner sends Everton faithful home disappointed

Sadio Mane grabbed the winner in the fourth minute of injury time as Liverpool beat Everton 1-0 on Monday to head into Christmas in second place in the Premier League and extend its recent dominance of Merseyside derbies.

Substitute Daniel Sturridge's low long-range shot dribbled against the post and Mane tapped the rebound into an empty net.

After a 227th derby match that was frantic and bereft of quality and scoring chances, Liverpool moved above Manchester City and back to within six points of Chelsea, which has won its last 11 league games.

Everton's struggles in this local rivalry continued — the blue half of Merseyside has won only once in the past 20 meetings — but Liverpool didn't look like a side that started the match on top of the league's scoring charts with 40 goals until Mane came to the rescue.

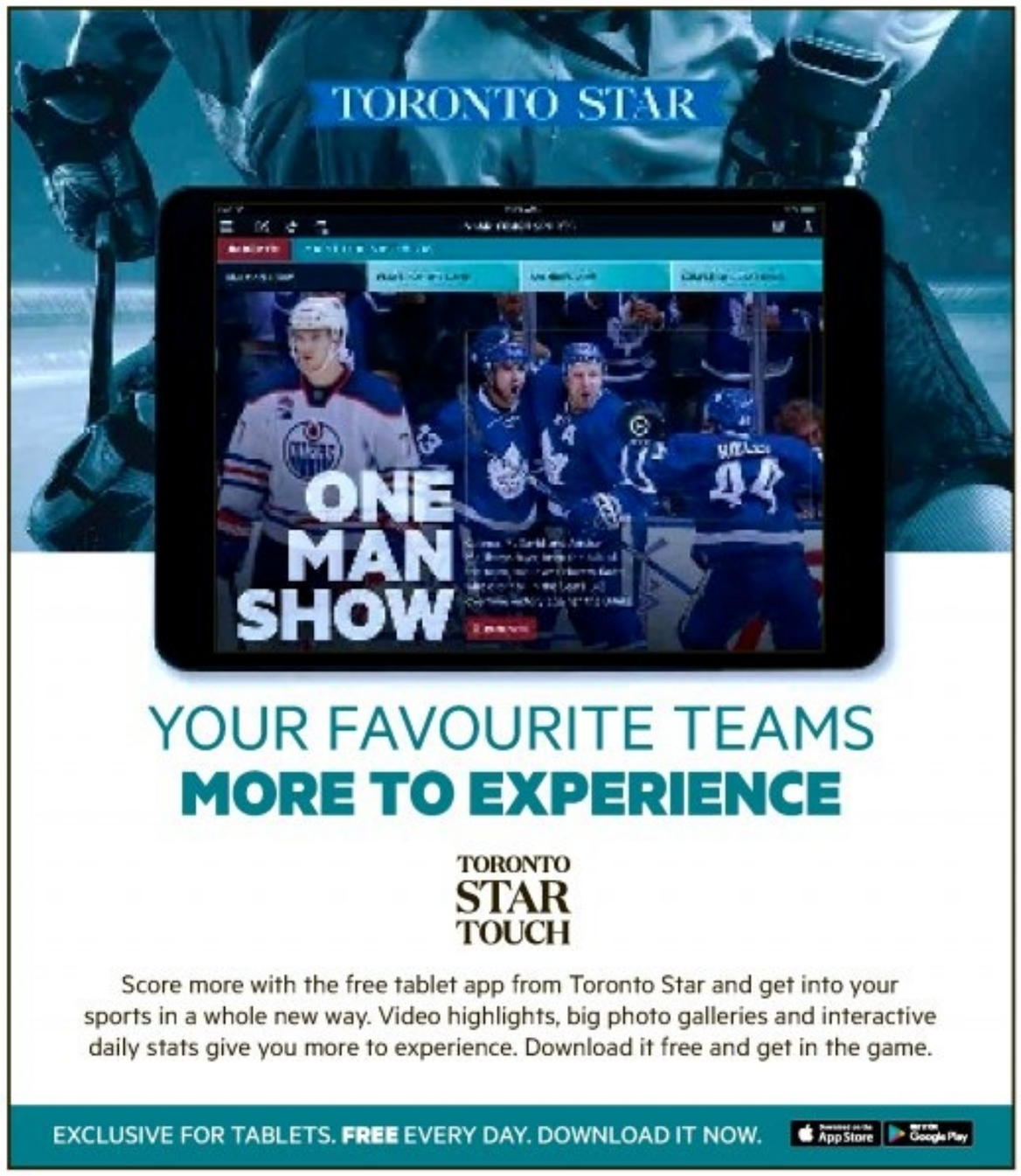
> **Not the greatest football but it's how a derby should be.**
>
> Jurgen Klopp

"The plan of Everton was wild football," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "It was a battle and we were ready for it."

It won't be a match that lingers long in the memory, except for the dramatic late goal and a shocking challenge by Everton's Ross Barkley on England teammate Jordan Henderson that could easily have earned him a red card.

GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Elegant Leek and Artichoke Frittata

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This pale green beauty comes together in no time with quick-cooking leeks and soft, canned artichokes. Goat cheese and Dijon mustard give it just enough bite.

Ready in 20 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 leek, washed thoroughly, sliced thinly
- 1 can (14 oz) artichokes, drained
- 8 eggs
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper
- 2 oz goat cheese crumbled
- 3 scallions, sliced

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. In a large, oven-proof skillet, warm up the olive oil over medium heat. Sauté the garlic and leeks until they soften, about 3 minutes. Now add the artichokes and stir.

3. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, Dijon mustard, and season with salt and pepper. Gently pour the eggs over the vegetables in the skillet. Sprinkle the goat cheese and scallions over top.

4. Carefully place the skillet in the oven and bake for 15 minutes, until the frittata is set. Serve with a green salad.

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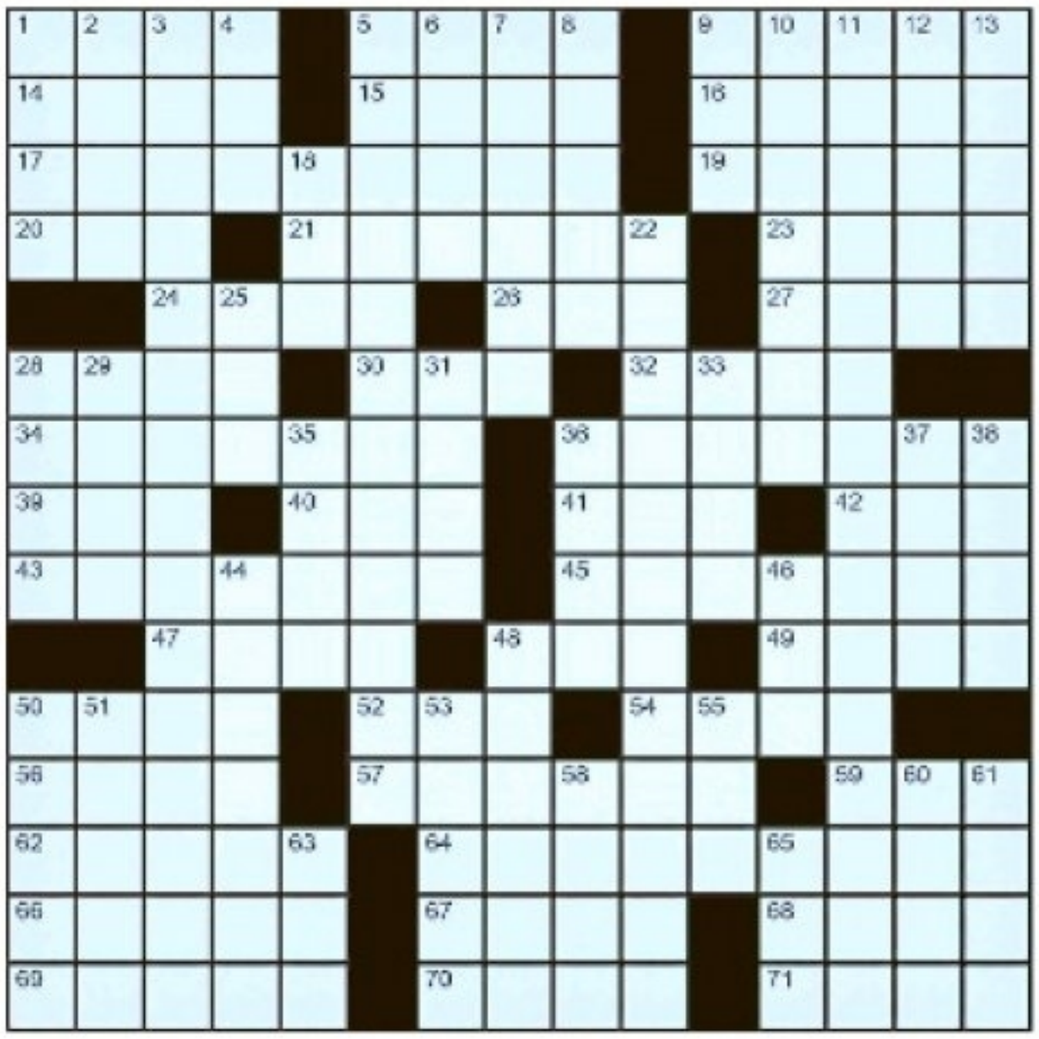
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Monsieur Le Pew
5. Sleeves
9. Aunt's hubby, in Quebec
14. Perched above
15. Tooth part
16. "Oh, _ _ a wonderful time, thank you." (Couple's departing-a-party comment)
17. Community north of Brandon in Manitoba: 2 wds.
19. Barrel slat
20. T.O. transport provider
21. In and of _
23. Paul McCartney ballad: "Jenny _"
24. "Dedicated to the _ _ Love" by The Shirelles
26. "Fantasy Island" souvenir
27. Alberta town
28. Literature heroine Jane
30. '_' _ for Christmas
32. Ginger Spice
34. Sloppy Joe sauce brand
36. Carnivorous carvees at Christmas
39. Assoc.
40. "Chandelier" singer
41. Sequence, shortened
42. Web connector, commonly
43. Puffin, for one: 2 wds.
45. One acquiring knowledge
47. US campus mil. program
48. Ginger _
49. Macy Gray hit: 2 wds.
50. Bandmate to #32-Across: name + letter
52. Globe's long. crosser
54. Heel height unit
56. _ the crack of dawn: 2 wds.
57. Arise
59. Hesitant sounds
62. Mia Farrow's activist son
64. Scrooge's sour sentiment: 2 wds.
66. Farewell, in Rome
67. "Shall _ _ the table?" (Pre-dinner query)
68. Toolbox item
69. 'Mechanical Resonance' band
70. Red Rose products
71. Firewood-making needs

DOWN
1. Role
2. Coup d'_
3. Home-created Christmas tree decorations: 2 wds.
4. Prefix to 'centre'
5. Santa's toy manufacturing facility is located in this region: 2 wds.
6. Kings: French
7. Road trip accommodations
8. Fashion sense
9. "That hurts!" equivalents
10. CTV, for one
11. Island of Misfit Toys denizen in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
12. Washed
13. Paradises
18. Gambling cube
22. Ice skating formations: 2 wds.
25. Fresh
28. Some punk music fans
29. Lively
31. "If only _ _ known."
33. Earth goddess in Das Rheingold
35. "Whose Line _ _ Anyway?"
36. Cost
37. River of Flanders
38. Agile
44. Jingly sleigh-puller's bells location
46. Mr. Ocasek
48. Feeling calm: 2 wds.
50. Napoleon marshal, Joachim _ (b.1767 - d.1815)
51. Lyric poem
53. Scope
55. Modern, in Munich
58. Ms. Perlman
60. Govern
61. Boot camp titles, briefly
63. Cacharel perfume
65. Commerce deg.

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Observe your interactions with others during the next six weeks, because you could be your own worst enemy. It will be easy to fall into childish, self-defeating behaviour.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will be aggressive in the coming month when dealing with others, especially groups. This will help you if you coach a team; however, lighten up when with your friends.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Your ambition will be aroused in the next six weeks, which is why you will work hard to achieve what you want. Think about your goals for the coming year.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your desire to travel will be strong during the next six weeks. Mars wants you to have a change of scenery. Meanwhile, steer clear of controversial issues involving politics, religion and race.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Disputes about shared property and the values of others might arise now. Stay mellow, because one man's meat is another man's poison.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will have to be extra patient with friends and partners during the next six weeks, because fiery Mars is opposite your sign. Forewarned is forearmed.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You'll find it easy to work hard and give your job everything you've got during the next six weeks. Be careful not to be bossy with others.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is the perfect time for many of you to take a cruise or slip away on a vacation, because you want to play! The next six weeks offer opportunities for fun and romance.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your home scene will be a bit chaotic during the next six weeks. This means you must be extra patient with family members and others at home.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
All your communication with others will be unusually direct and forthright in the next six weeks. It's a strong time for those who communicate for a living.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will work hard until February to boost your earnings. Ironically, you also will work hard to spend your money.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Fiery Mars will be in your sign until the end of January, which makes you aggressive and pumped. This will give you lots of energy and help you get things done.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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8								6
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2	9	5	1	4	7	6	8	3
3	6	1	9	8	5	2	4	7
6	4	9	8	5	2	7	3	1
5	2	8	3	7	1	9	6	4
1	3	7	4	6	9	8	2	5
7	8	2	5	1	3	4	9	6
9	5	6	7	2	4	3	1	8
4	1	3	6	9	8	5	7	2

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